



## Summary of Recreational Groundfish Regulations for 2009 Morro Bay South-Central Management Area



*Ocean waters between 36°00' N. latitude (near Lopez Point in Monterey County)  
and 34°27' N. latitude (Point Conception)*

*Includes a portion of Monterey County, all of San Luis Obispo County,  
and a portion of Santa Barbara County*

**Note: Expected effective date March 1, 2009. Regulations in the table may change during the year. Before engaging in ocean sportfishing for groundfish and associated species, please review one of the sources listed in Footnote 2 to receive the most up-to-date regulations.**

Species	Time Period <sup>2, 3</sup>	Depth Limit <sup>2, 3</sup>	Daily Bag Limit <sup>2</sup>	Min. Size Limit <sup>1, 2, 4</sup>
RCG Complex (including all species of Rockfish, Cabezon and Greenlings)	<u>Boat-based Anglers<sup>3</sup></u> : <b>Open:</b> May 1-Nov 15 <b>Closed:</b> Jan 1-April 30, Nov 16-Dec 31 <u>Divers, Shore-based Anglers<sup>3</sup></u> : Open year-round	May only be taken or possessed in waters <i>less than</i> 240 ft (40 fm) deep <b>SEE EXCEPTION AT END OF TABLE</b>	10 fish in combination per person; see sub- limits for cabezon, greenlings and bocaccio	See individual species and groups below
Canary, Yelloweye, Cowcod and Bronzespotted Rockfishes	CLOSED all year; NO RETENTION		NO RETENTION (zero)	
Bocaccio	Same as RCG Complex, above	Same as RCG Complex, above	2 fish per person; also included in the 10-fish aggregate RCG Complex bag limit	10" total length
Cabezon	Same as RCG Complex, above	Same as RCG Complex, above	2 fish per person; also included in the 10-fish aggregate RCG Complex bag limit	15" total length
Kelp or Rock Greenling	Same as RCG Complex, above	Same as RCG Complex, above	2 fish per person; also included in the 10-fish aggregate RCG Complex bag limit	12" total length
Ocean Whitefish	Same as RCG Complex, above	Same as RCG Complex, above	10 fish per person	none
California Sheephead	Same as RCG Complex, above	Same as RCG Complex, above	5 fish per person	12" total length
California Scorpionfish	Same as RCG Complex, abv above	Same as RCG Complex above	5 fish per person	10" total length

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Lingcod	<u>Boat-based Anglers</u> <sup>3</sup> : <b>Open:</b> May 1-Nov 15 <b>Closed:</b> Jan 1-April 30, Nov 16-Dec 31 <u>Divers, Shore-based Anglers</u> <sup>3</sup> : <b>Open:</b> April 1-Nov 30 <b>Closed:</b> Jan 1-Mar 31, Dec	Same as RCG Complex, above	2 fish per person	24" total length
Leopard Shark	<u>Boat-based Anglers</u> <sup>3</sup> : Same as RCG Complex, above <u>Divers, Shore-Based Anglers</u> <sup>3</sup> : Open all year	Same as RCG Complex, above	3 fish per person	36" total length
Pacific Sanddabs and "Other Flatfish" <sup>5</sup> (see Section 28.48)	OPEN all year <sup>5</sup>	None <sup>5</sup>	See Section 28.48	See Section 28.48
Other Federal Groundfish (see Sections 28.49, 28.51, 28.52, 28.53, 28.57)	Same as RCG Complex, above	Same as RCG Complex, above	See Sections 28.49, 28.51, 28.52, 28.53, 28.57	See Sections 28.49, 28.51, 28.52, 28.53, 28.57

1. See regulations for information on gear restrictions and fillet lengths.

2. Subject to in-season change. Call the Recreational Groundfish Fishing Regulations Hotline at **(831) 649-2801**, visit the Marine Region Web site at **[www.dfg.ca.gov/marine](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine)**, send an e-mail to **[AskMarine@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:AskMarine@dfg.ca.gov)**, or call your nearest DFG office for the latest information.

3. Divers and shore-based anglers are exempt from season and depth restrictions affecting the RCG complex, ocean whitefish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, and other federally managed groundfish (except for lingcod). However, when spearfishing during a boat-based closure, only spearfishing gear is allowed aboard any vessel or watercraft. Also, when angling from shore during a boat-based closure, no vessel or watercraft may be used to assist in taking or possessing species included in this table. The following definitions describe boat-based and shore-based anglers, and divers:

- Boat-based anglers are fishermen angling from boats or vessels of any size or any other type of floating object, including kayaks and float tubes.
- Shore-based anglers are fishermen angling from beaches, banks, piers, jetties, breakwaters, docks, and other man-made structures connected to the shore.
- Divers are spear fishermen entering the water either from the shore or from a boat or other floating object.

4. Total length is the longest straight-line measurement from the tip of the head with the mouth closed to the end of the longest lobe of the tail. A finfish and shellfish measurement illustration is provided in the current Ocean Sport Fishing regulations booklet.

5. In closed areas or during closed periods, Pacific sanddab, butter sole, curlfin sole, flathead sole, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole (defined as "Other Flatfish" in Section 1.91(a)(10)) may be taken.

**EXCEPTION:** During the open season, groundfish may be possessed in closed areas and in water depths closed to fishing only aboard vessels in transit with no fishing gear in the water. See sub-section 27.20(b).